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Church of God Evangel





Question Box

NOTE: All questions addressed to "The Question Box" must be signed if they are to receive a reply. However, names will be withheld from publication if requested. Only the questions considered of general interest will be answered in the EVANGEL.

QUESTION: Is it all right for a Christian girl to go with a sinner boy?—Names withheld by request.

IT CERTAINLY IS UNWISE, unless the purpose is to tell him about Christ. Courtship often leads to marriage, and the marriage of a Christian to a sinner is discountenanced by the Scriptures. According to 1 Corinthians 7:39, a Christian is free to marry "only in the Lord."



QUESTION: What does God have to do with marriage?—Mrs. Doris Price, Adrian, Georgia.

GOD JOINS the man and woman in marriage, and in His eyes they become one person. Mark 10:6-9, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."



QUESTION: Will children be born during the great tribulation after the saints are raptured? Also, will the unborn child be taken from the mother when the saints are raptured?—Mrs. A. M. Swiger, Independence, Oregon.

YES, CHILDREN will continue to be born during the tribulation. There is no intimation anywhere in the Scriptures that unborn children will be taken from their mothers at the rapture. The natural processes of life will continue uninterrupted after the rapture has taken place.



QUESTION: Is there a scripture in the Bible that says that God will cast all your sins in the sea of forgetfulness never to remember them against you any more? I've heard it from the pulpit, and preachers say it is in the Bible, but I can't find it.—Martha Mougold, Brushy Run, West Virginia.

THIS FAMILIAR saying is the combined essence of two separate verses. Micah 7:19 says, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Hebrews 8:12 says, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

IN THIS ISSUE

The Question Box	2
Word Pictures in the English Dictionary	3
You Bible and You	4
The Rent Veil	7
Random Seed for a Deliberate Harvest	7
Salvation for Sinners	8
Religious News	14
Jack C. Page	
L. O. Henry	
Joseph L. Milligan	



COVER PICTURE

"The Light of Life" by Ewing Galloway

The worn hands that fondly turn the pages of God's Word and the hungry heart that reads it are abiding proofs that "the entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130.

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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Word Pictures in the English Dictionary

FEW PEOPLE REALIZE the panorama of life that is contained between the lids of a good dictionary. Those who will devote a little time and effort to their dictionaries can open to themselves a multitude of pleasant vistas seen through colorful panes.

A word is a complex mechanism necessary for communication between human beings. But it is more than that; it is a living and beautiful jewel. Words do not merely happen in the course of human communication, but they are like people in that they have a positive lineage, tracing their ancestry back to remote periods of antiquity.

Our modern English words did not just happen, but they exist and have meaning because they are the progeny of words that were the offspring of other words before them on back to the tower of Babel. Words have a history behind them, often a history infinitely worth our search and investigation. How they began and how they have influenced, and been influenced by, their day is interesting to the extent of captivation.

For example, take the word "congregation." We know that in present-day usage it means "a group of people assembled together for the purpose of religious worship." But how did it come to mean that? Well, the word comes from the Latin word *congregatus*, which is the past participle of *congregare*, which means to congregate, and it is a combination of the root terms *con* and *gregare*. *Con* means "with or together"; *gregare* means "to collect" and comes from a still more primitive root *grex*. *Grex* means "flock," and was used in referring to sheep. Now we begin to see how the word "congregation" came to be applied to those who attend religious worship. It means literally "with the flock." It pictures those who assemble to worship as a flock of sheep, gathered with the same purpose. The word "congregation" did not simply happen, but has an interesting life story for all those who are willing to dig it out. Many such word pictures are sermons in themselves.

Often people refuse to go to the altar for prayer with the statement "I am not under conviction." Let's look at the word "conviction" and see if this is true. The word

is from a combination of Latin terms: *con* meaning "with" and *vincere* meaning "to conquer" or "vanquish." When two combatants met in a struggle, the one who was overpowered would have been, using the modern word, convicted. Later, the word came to be applied to those who engaged in any quarrel, discussion, or debate. The loser was "convinced" or brought to the "conviction" that he was wrong and that the other was right. Now the word is used concerning the sinner's relation to God. Some think that to be "under conviction" one must be frightened or scared as if expecting doom at any minute. Actually, to be under conviction means simply that one is convinced of the reality and truth of God, of a personal need of Him, and of His willingness to save. He can be under conviction without being scared at all, for conviction is the state of being persuaded and not of being frightened.

IN THE THEATERS of ancient Greece the actors wore masks which identified them as the hero, villain, or comic. These actors were called *hypokrites*, which word came from the masks they wore. This came to be the Greek word for "actor" or one who "plays a part on the stage." Eventually, the word *hypokrites* came to be applied to anyone who apparently played a role or pretended to be something he actually was not. The word was passed from the Greek to the Latin and from the Latin to the Old French, when it was spelled *ipocrite*, and from Old French to our English word "hypocrite." We all know what a hypocrite is, but the irony of it is that hypocrites started in the theater and have ended in the Church.

From the Greek word *kyros*, which meant "power" came the word *kyrios*, which meant "master or lord" (because of a lord's power or authority), from which came the word *kyriakon*, which meant "the lord's house." This changed to *circe* in the Anglo-Saxon. From *circe* comes the modern English word "church." It is interesting to note that the church can trace its ancestry back to a word meaning "power." This refers to the church building, however, and not to the body of believers which the Bible refers to as the Church. Church in this sense sprang from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which meant "called out ones." Thus the Church; that is, the body of believers, is made up of those who are called out—called out of the world, out of sin, and so forth.

Then there is the word "influence" which comes from two Latin root terms *in*, meaning "in," and *fluere*, meaning "to flow." An influence is literally "an inflowing." Our personal influence then is literally what we cause to flow into other people. If our words and attitudes and behaviors cause to flow into others courage, ambition, trustfulness, and so forth, then our influence is good.

(Continued on page 11)



*Generations follow generations—yet it lives.
Nations rise and fall—yet it lives.
Kings, dictators, presidents come and go—yet it lives.
Torn, condemned, burned—yet it lives.
Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet it lives.
Damned by atheists—yet it lives.
Exaggerated by fanatics—yet it lives.
Misconstrued and misstated—yet it lives.
Ranted and raved about—yet it lives.
Its inspiration denied—yet it lives.*

*Yet it lives as—a lamp to our feet,
a light to our paths,
a standard for childhood,
a guide for youth
a comfort for the aged,
food for the hungry,
water for the thirsty,
rest for the weary,
light for the heathen,
salvation for the sinner,
grace for the Christian.*

*To know it is to love it;
To love it is to accept it;
To accept it means life eternal.*

—Willard L. Johnson



Life's greatest companions

Should be

Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

THE BIBLE IS THE greatest book a person can possess. It is one of divine inspiration; one of divine guidance to any person who will endeavor to study its pages. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." If we do so through earnest prayer and sincerity, God will reveal the scriptures to us. Otherwise, if we neglect the study of the Bible and neglect prayer, which is essential in studying the Bible, we will surely fall short of our goal.

First, I should like to mention a few ways a Bible can become an ornament in the home.

In the case of some folks who have a Bible in their homes, they put it away on a shelf and forget it. It is seldom ever read and, therefore, it becomes an ornament. It is easy for a person to put the Bible up, if they haven't any interest in it. It may be kept in the bookcase, but if it was never read, it would only be taking up space. It looks good to see a Bible in a home, but it doesn't always signify that the person living there is a steady reader of the Bible. It may leave a good impression to visitors, but wherever it is kept, it can be of best value to you if you read it and study it properly. Ask God to reveal it to you, and pray much for that revelation, and God will surely answer your prayer. It is needful that we study the Bible as in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

In recent months, a major newspaper in the City of Dallas, Texas, ran a few articles on crime and horror comics and other lewd literature. This series of articles brought a big response from the people, and crusades were started immediately to put an end to the sale of this kind of literature. This shows the interest of decent, good, moral people in the type of literature they and their children read, yet, many of the same people neglect their reading of the Bible. You can't touch everyone with articles of the type described above, but if one soul is turned from his sinful way, our effort would not be in vain.

Many people lose their way because they have so many other things of interest that they lose sight of the need to pray and study their Bible. Soon they are lost and in deep sin because of the devices that Satan has put here to lead souls astray. Their Bible is left on a shelf and becomes an ornament.

SECOND, I should like to mention a few reasons the Bible was placed on earth.

It was put here as a law, as a divine guide, as a refuge to those seeking shelter from the storm. The plan of salvation was perfected in its pages, and through this plan a soul that is lost can find forgiveness for his sins. He then becomes a new babe in Christ. Without the help of

• Your Bible and You

—The Eternal Book for an Eternal Soul

By
Jack C. Page

the passages on faith and courage in the Bible, he may fall by the wayside and never get any farther. But with these helps, he is able to read, and through the Holy Ghost, he can understand the things that are written in its pages. If we study our Bible properly and pray much for a revelation, God will surely grant to us the things that are contained between its covers.

The Bible is a wonderful book, and it gives the life story of many great men of God who lived by faith and came through victorious over sin.

I believe the reason most people don't endeavor to read the Bible is because they think it is too deep to understand. However, after a study of it, I believe they will find it easy to understand. If we just keep putting it off and never try to read it, we will never know its contents. It was put here for the purpose of leading souls to salvation. We may become soul winners for Jesus by studying the Bible, praying over it, and putting it to proper use in our everyday life.

I should like to give a word of advice to the young people concerning interest in the Bible. It seems that most of the young folks of today are busy doing other things rather than going to church and studying the Word of God. We find in our newsstands today many books which the devil has caused to be placed there. Of course, it looks good, and young people go for those things. I don't say that all of our Church of God young people indulge in such filth, but I'm sure that a percentage do. But regardless of this, these books should never be brought in the home or should never be read by anyone. I know personally a young man who professes to be a Christian. He regularly attends church, he works in the church, he prays and believes in God, yet, I was amazed when on a recent week-end visit to my home, this young man pulled out a magazine of cheap, trashy "romances" and proceeded to read it. Personally, I would rejoice to see all such magazines and books burned. Many people, old and young, read them and yet never think of reading the Word of God. It must undoubtedly grieve the very heart of God to see people reading such trash. He never meant for us to do those things, and yet, the devil is so sly that he can put a thing before us that looks so enticing, and if we are not careful, we can be caught off guard. We must remember that the devil will attack us in our weakest moment, and we should, therefore, always be alert and watchful, prayed-up and victorious. Reading, eating, and digesting the Word of God keeps us on the alert for those wily tricks of Satan.

I make no apologies when I say that comic strips are just as corruptible as these books and magazines we have been speaking of. Many of them are not the horror and crime type, but they are not uplifting or inspiring at all. When faced with a doubt as to whether or not you

should read certain literature, ask yourself this question: "What spiritual benefit do I receive from comic strips (or certain books or magazines, as the case may be)?" If the answer is "None," then you know that you will be wasting your time if you read that particular item. Probably, if we tested ourselves concerning the amount of time spent reading the Bible and the amount of time spent reading other types of literature, we might be surprised and rather chagrined at our findings. Many people excuse themselves by saying, "I just don't have time to read the Bible." Yet, if we enter their home, we will find comic strips and many other types of literature not of a spiritual nature.

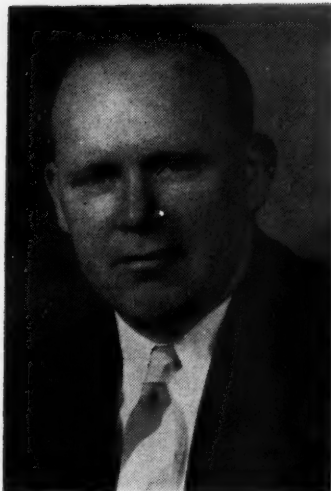
In many instances we find that certain people do not read their Sunday School lesson until they get to Sunday School. They have an entire week to prepare their lesson, but they excuse themselves by saying, "I didn't have time." If they were faced with the question, "What other books have you read this week?" it is quite likely that someone would be very much offended. In some homes, it seems to be the rule that Sunday morning funnies must be read, but the lesson can wait until we're on the way to church.

COULD IT BE that the literature we are reading today could be placed in the category of a "besetting sin"? I realize that we are not all perfect, but there are many little weights that we could lay down that hinder us in the race we are in. We could run a better race for Jesus if we were really willing to lay down the little sins that so easily beset us.

It is my sincere hope that none of you are offended by the things I have set forth above, but this is my earnest conviction. If you will take heed to these things, get down on your knees and ask God to help you to study the Word and understand it. Ask Him to remove all obstacles, that you may run a good race. The Bible is full of adventure, romance, and mystery. Have you ever read the entire book of Acts? What adventures! What thrills! And with it all, marvelous spiritual aid. That is only one book out of many that will thrill your soul with the wonderful works of God.

There are many wonderful Christian fiction books that are on the market today. In our own Pathway Book Club there are books that inspire and uplift and still give you a sense of sharing an adventure or romance with another. May God richly bless those people who are willing to give all that they can to write clean, pure, holy books that will inspire us to higher heights and deeper depths in Christ.

Young people, you will be the parents of tomorrow. Take heed that you abide in the Word of God so that you may lead your children to God.



To understand the
death of Christ we must
know the meaning of

The Rent Veil

By
L. O. Henry
Pastor, West Gastonia, N. C.

Matthew 27:51, "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent."

THE DEATH OF JESUS was accompanied by a number of striking events. The earth quaked, the rocks rent, the graves were opened, the sun was darkened, and the text says that the veil of the Temple was rent. Let us consider the spiritual significance, the effect, that it should produce upon us.

THE PLACE OF THE VEIL. What was it that was rent? In Exodus 26:31 we have the commandment given by God to Moses to make the veil for the tabernacle. The veil was designed to separate the holy place and the most holy place. No one could enter beyond this veil into the most holy place nor was any human eye permitted to peer into that most sacred and holy portion of the tabernacle but the one exception—once a year the high priest entered into the most holy place with blood which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people. He entered alone, for no one was permitted to go into this portion of the tabernacle except the high priest. Hebrews 9:7 records this fact.

After the building of the Temple, the same procedure was carried on as when the Israelites had their tabernacle. This was a type of the time when the great High Priest, Jesus Christ our Lord, would enter into the most holy place up there and present His own precious blood for all humanity. The blood of bulls, goats, and heifers could not make the individual perfect, but the blood of Jesus Christ can blot out every trace of sin. As Jesus breathed His last breath upon the cross and said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," then this great phenomenon which is recorded in our text occurred. No longer was it necessary for the high priest to enter into the most holy place for the individual, but everyone could now enter directly into the presence of God for himself through the merits of Christ's sacrificial death on Calvary's tree.

THE EVENT AS LITERALLY RECORDED. The Bible record makes it very definite and very clear that the veil was rent from top to bottom. Thus we can see that God was signifying by this occurrence that we were entering into the new dispensation of grace. What a won-

derful thought that we can enter for ourselves into the very presence of God through the mediatorship of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE VEIL WAS RENT. It was a supernatural occurrence. No hand could have done it. It was the finger of God. Josephus says that it would have taken twelve yoke of oxen to have brought this about. Thus we can easily see that God's power was being manifested in a marvelous manner to signify that the old was now being laid aside for the new and better way.

IT WAS SYSTEMATICAL. The veil was not torn into shreds, but it was equally divided; that is, it was parted from top to bottom. If it had been done by man, there would have been some kind of flaw in this veil. It could have been rent only by God to be done so perfectly as it was. When did the rending of the veil take place? While the high priest stood before the mercy seat offering the blood for the sins of the people, the better way which God had ordained was being completed. Christ Jesus was hanging upon the cross—spilling His blood for the sins of all mankind. He was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Christ was offering Himself to God—a Sacrifice for the sins of the world. "He died the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God."

WHAT DID THE VEIL REPRESENT? The human nature of Christ. As the veil concealed the holiest place, so Christ's humanity enshrouded the deity in the man Jesus. Man was not permitted to look upon Christ in all the glory which He really possessed, only as Christ incarnated in human flesh. Nevertheless, He was perfect God as well as perfect Man. His glory was somewhat lessened through human eyes only because it was hidden by the veil of human flesh.

Also, the veil could represent that chasm which existed between God and man. Sin had broken our fellowship with God; sin had separated us from the presence of God. Christ died to break down this partition. The rent veil was the signal to abolish the Jewish ordinances. They never were designed to continue, for they were merely shadows and types of Christ. Also, the rent veil denoted the removal of distinctions between the Jewish and the Gentile nations. God had chosen the seed of Abraham. To them had been committed the oracles of God. Now,

(Continued on page 11)



Random Seed for a Deliberate Harvest

● Emperor Charles V, of the Holy Roman Empire, once tried for several days to make several clocks tick in perfect unison, but finally gave up in utter defeat. Even though the clocks would seem for a few minutes to be ticking together, they soon were making an irregular and discordant noise. The Emperor admitted the impossibility of such a continued harmony, with the opinion that since clocks could not be forced to tick together, neither could several men be forced to think alike, or act alike. That is so. Just because they did not tick together did not mean that any one of them was any less a clock—or that any one of them was an incorrect keeper of time. They just did not tick in constant unison. If your fellow man does not always agree in thought with you, it does not mean that he is any less Christian than you are, or that he is an inferior workman. Each clock told correct time by its own rhythm of ticking, so must we each get our work done by our own individual way.

In America's Hall of Fame there are only four ministers' names. They are Phillips Brooks, William Ellery Channing, Henry Ward Beecher, and Jonathan Edwards. However, you will find recorded there the names of many persons who followed a less noble calling than these four preachers. In God's Hall of Fame the estimate of greatness will be quite different.

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews has been called the Bible Hall of fame.

● A little boy became interested in those who would be in heaven. "Will Father be there?" he asked. "Then I'm not going there!" Home religion is as important as church religion; we should make others want to go to heaven because we are going there.

● In the western United States there are certain cactus plants sharp and tough enough to pierce shoe leather. Many a soldier found this out when he had to retire from battle during early skirmishes with the Indians to nurse his bleeding, lacerated feet. Often these plants wrought as many casualties among the inexperienced pioneers as did the fracas with the Indians. That is why we need to wear the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace (*Ephesians 6:15*); because a stone bruise, or a maimed foot will render us as incapable of battle as will the darts of the wicked one.

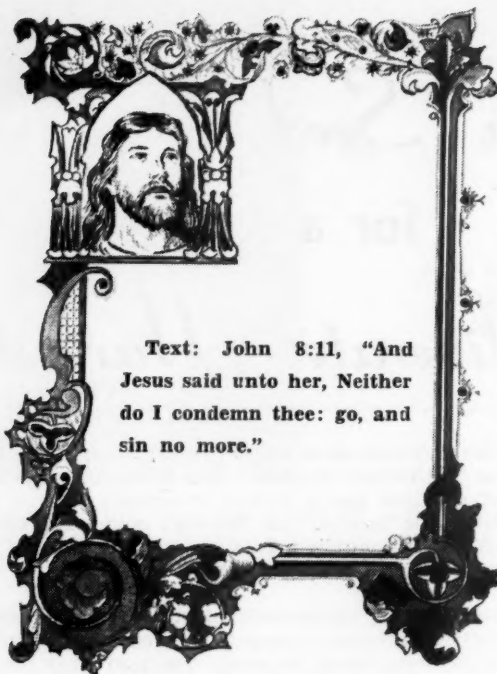
● There are only about 7,000 different words in the King James (Authorized) Version of the Bible. Any alert high school graduate has a greater vocabulary than is employed in the Book of Life, heaven's immortal treasury. The Bible is essentially a Book for the average man, and its message is barred from none.

● Buffalo gnats were once so plentiful along the Mississippi River that they appeared like dark clouds hovering over the water. Many an early American river steamer ran aground when the pilot became blinded by the swarms of these tiny insects that gathered about the boat. It is not always the things which are largest that blind most easily, but our spiritual vision is more often blinded by the multitude of "little things" which cloud our minds.

● Plato the philosopher, said: "I thank God that I was born a man, and not a beast; that I was born a Grecian and not a barbarian." Yet he never knew the blessedness of Christianity (he lived before Christ); so we have even more than he had for which to be thankful.

● John Bunyan was a much-loved preacher, and always preached to eager congregations. When he was put in prison because of his preaching, he was greatly grieved, and worried much about the hundreds of people who were famishing for the Word of God. The judicial and ecclesiastical authorities told him that he could have his freedom if he would never preach again—but he told them that if he were released during that day he would be preaching the Word of God before the day was over. Nothing that was done could effect his freedom. When he prayed in the Bedford jail, he implored God to release him so he could again feed the hundreds upon hundreds who were so desperately in need of his ministry; however, he closed each prayer with the assurance that he desired God's will to be done, albeit he could not see how God could use his confinement to His glory.

But God knew best. His release would have been a blessing to hundreds, but his imprisonment has been a blessing to literally millions; because it was in prison that he was inspired, and found time to write *Pilgrim's Progress*. This immortal book will never have its influence and blessing fathomed, for it is read by thousands upon thousands the world over in the same atmosphere of worship in which the Bible is read.



Salvation for Sinners

What lessons are to be learned from Christ's forgiveness of the adulterous woman? What is Christ's attitude today?

By Joseph L. Milligan, State
Youth Director of Alabama

ANOTHER GLORIOUS DAY in the unparalleled life of our Lord was just beginning. The Master had spent another of those agonizing nights kneeling beneath the gnarled trees in the Mount of Olives, His favorite resort for secret prayer. It is early morning now, and we find our Lord "up and about His Father's business" coming into the temple in Jerusalem, as surging crowds commence to press Him. There is nothing unusual about this scene, for the human race has always been hungry for divine truth, and has ever been in need of being taught the precious Word. It is Christ and His message of salvation alone that will satisfy the gnawing hunger of the world's soul today.

Many have been the mistaken ministers in this our day, who have turned aside from the fundamental preaching of the glorious gospel to such substitutes as showmanship, fan-fare, ostentation, hypocrisy, and, in some instances, chicanery to attract the multitudes. Whether their motives were always pure and unselfish at the outset of their erring is for God alone to decide, but it is an irrefutable fact that legions of unwary, unsuspecting followers of such have been disillusioned, deluded, duped, and bitterly disappointed when they were painfully awakened out of their spiritual somnolence and shown how miserably they had strayed from the "true paths."

Truth! Oh, may God give us more preachers of truth and more lovers of truth in our congregations! It is appalling, but factual, that some so-called believers have scurried here and there, following every wind of doctrine, until, having heard so many conflicting interpretations, revelations, and visions, they hardly know what truth actually is.

But Jesus had the people to sit down, and He, sitting down in the midst of them, taught them. He "sat down"! What significant words! You see, there is no need for enshrouding truth with loud shouting, with boisterous braggadocio, or with deep, dark mysteries. Truth invites investigation, for it hides nothing. Truth rejoices in being discovered, exults when made bare before unbelievers, and smiles confidently when doubters seek to examine its claims, or to test its results. Truth wreaks miracles and waits patiently and fearlessly for scribes and Pharisees to handle its wares or to check the recipients of its healings. Truth is never ashamed; truth never blushes; truth has no apprehensions of being "found out"! Truth is forever established in the heavens; you are safe to use it for your foundation.

As Jesus began to unfold the glorious gospel, there came an unpardonable disturbance in His discourse. The spell of His teaching was immediately broken as the heads of the distracted hearers turned quickly toward a group of scribes and Pharisees who came dragging, pushing, and goading a little woman down the aisle of the temple—and right in the middle of a sermon—a sermon, which, if allowed to continue to its peroration uninterrupted would possibly have swept many souls into the kingdom. But what care these rascals? Though they were proud professors of religion, they would much rather have a church trial where they could roll under their lying tongues the morsel of an unclean confession, and could tickle their devilish ears with the sobs of a broken heart, than to hear the Lord of heaven reveal the hidden treasures of the gospel! They honestly preferred a business meeting to a revival! Oh, yes, they believed in CONVICTION all right, but only the kind that ends with

some kind of penalty for misbehavior. Sure, they were even "personal workers," too—they were out seeking sinners FOR CONDEMNATION, rather than searching them out to save them FROM eternal condemnation. Jesus said, "the poor you have with you alway"; He might have added that we have with us always just such sordid souls as those that broke up His meeting that eventful morning.

HAD IT OCCURRED TO you that if these BRETHREN had been in the church where they should have been, and where duty called them, they would never have taken this woman in her sinful indulgence? What were they doing in such a place where one could be taken in such an act? It is my opinion that they knew the Lord was in the temple preaching, else they would not have brought the woman there for Him to judge the matter. Consequently, if they knew He was there, and if they had possessed the faintest appetite for the Word of God, they, by all means, should have been in their positions in the congregation. Speaking of positions, my soul fears that we often get out of our place and perhaps even tamper with the prerogatives of God Almighty, when we sit in judgment on sinners.

Wait! I know what you are thinking! I do believe in church "government"! It is agreed that God has placed "governments" in the church, and profitably so, for without some systematic form of operation and discipline, our congregations would soon become so disorganized and so confused that the church would devour itself. "Government" was not meant to be a curse. It was mentioned in the Pauline epistle right along with such gracious benedictions as "apostles, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, and diversities of tongues." But CHURCH GOVERNMENT WITHOUT MERCY IS ECCLESIASTICAL TYRANNY! Government is intended to GUIDE AND GUARD, not to ENSLAVE AND IMPRISON! Church government should serve as a mighty fortress and refuge for the hounded soul, never as a bastille.

Let us turn the eyes of our minds toward the adulterous woman of the text, as she is brought before the Governor of the universe for judgment. The Bible states that "when they had SET HER in the midst," which seems to indicate that they pushed her down, shoved her and forced her to be seated. Then "they say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act." Notice they got right down to business. They went through no preliminaries before considering the charges preferred. They took no time for prayer in seeking divine direction in the matter. They possibly didn't so much as blush as they thundered forth the charges, using such plainness of speech in the mixed crowd, and somehow as one reads and rereads the accusation, it appears that they were even ANXIOUS to wax vulgar enough to minutely describe the scene, for they tried to emphasize the seriousness of it by saying, "in the VERY ACT." Oh, how thoughtless were they of the presence of others! But, you know, a careful study of the type of such characters that delight in tarnishing the crowns of others reveals that they are usually ignorant, selfish, bigoted, uncultured, and extremely rude people themselves. No person, with a smattering of self-respect, saying nothing of the respect he would have shown to others in attendance that day, would have gone about dealing with the erring souls with such bluntness.

Then, true to their characteristics, they got religious

enough to even quote a portion of the law of Moses—simply because such law was advantageous to them at the moment. That possibly was the only part of the law they could quote from memory, for there are people who commit only such scriptures to their memory that they can use in such sordid business, while they know totally nothing of the Bible's message on forgiveness, or on the unbounded love of a merciful God. They never read the cataloguing of the gifts or fruits of the Spirit in the Galatian letter. Actually, there is more scripture condemning the awful spirit they manifested that day and the attitude they assumed in the matter than there is concerning the woman's sinfulness. What righteous scorn must have arisen in the Master's heart, as He stared beyond their sanctimonious countenances, and searched their rotten, reeking, rancorous hearts that were festering with iniquity! They were not only accusing the little woman of a heinous crime, but they were IN ACTUALITY PUTTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF ON TRIAL, for they said, "Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned, but WHAT SAYEST THOU? This they said, TEMPTING HIM, THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO ACCUSE HIM!" They were so zealous to keep the law of Moses, but at the same time, they themselves were so lawless as to scale the heights of heaven and place the Son of God on the witness stand for trial! What brazen audacity!

"And Jesus stooped down." He stooped physically, mentally, and spiritually. He stooped physically in that He knelt on the ground to finger in the sand. He stooped mentally, for it must have been for Him something of mental anguish to belittle Himself to hear and settle such trivial affairs. He Who had stooped thousands of years before that hour, even before the foundation of the world—somewhere, sometime in the eternities past, in the secret council chamber of heaven, and had bowed His holy head in submission to the Father's redemptive plan. He Who had stooped some thirty-odd years before this hour, when He stepped from His royal throne, walked



to the battlements of glory, bade His lamenting subjects "good-by," and descended against the will of angels to commence His bloody mission on earth—yes, He Who had stooped from heaven to a wayward world, from a throne to a manger, from riches to rags, from purple and fine linen to swaddling clothes, from infinite wealth to abject poverty, from king to fugitive—is now stooping again to settle the petty quarrels of His creation. He Who had dipped His finger, as it were, in the jewels of heaven and had written His glory in starry letters across the wide firmament, is now writing in **SAND**. Incredible!

JESUS ALSO STOOPED spiritually. His sensitive, holy soul must have shuddered as they talked so glibly of sinful indulgence. The Bible states that He, "with His finger wrote on the ground, as **THOUGH HE HEARD THEM NOT**." He possibly was so humiliated over the situation, He kept His head down to hide His embarrassment. Every time I read the eighth chapter of John's Gospel, I fall in love with Jesus over and over, for this one particular point in the episode—as far as we can learn—Jesus did **NOT EVEN LOOK** at the woman being tried, at least while her accusers were present. Bless His heart! He knew her anxieties, He was touched with the feeling of her infirmities, her apprehensions, her misgivings, and her fear of the consequent penalty of death. She was guilty and made no attempt to deny the accusation. She also knew these scribes and Pharisees were heartless enough to execute judgment, for hatred was written across their faces. But what she did not know was this: she was before a Judge Who takes great pleasure in setting captives free, Who finds delight in meting out mercy rather than suffering, One Who had come millions of miles just to be present that day to **DEFEND HER**. Blessed be God, He is the Defender of weak women; He is the Friend of sinners! Well might the earth's entire population rejoice and be exceeding glad over this truth, for were it not so, the holiest saints, receiving his just deserts, would this moment be in the profoundest hell!

What do you think would be the attitude of some professors of religion today if they were to sit in judgment on such an unfortunate soul as this wretched woman? I have seen them march into council rooms with their faces set like flint, their steps resembling the arrogant march of the military, and one could discern from their behavior that their minds were already made up. They had prejudged the case without hearing the victim's plea for clemency. Had you considered the fact that the woman's testimony might have proved her innocent? Who knows the background of events leading up to her sin? But what cared they for her pleadings? Their stony faces were unchanged when tears of repentance fell in profusion, and when the contrite soul of the accused cried out for mercy. They strutted as members of the Sanhedrin. "Brethren, these things ought not to be!" Rather than turning on the guilty soul and arraigning it, we should become infuriated with righteous indignation at the Adversary that inspired, connived, and perpetrated such a devilish scheme for the soul's overthrow. There is no use to curse the train for its leaping the tracks and wrecking, when someone clandestinely fixed the rails for the mishap. If there is a curse to be pronounced, affix it on the one who engineered the tragedy.

Jesus had been stooping all through the previous night in the Mount of Olives as He poured His soul out to God

in prayer, thus it is not surprising that the first thing He did and the first impulse He had was to go to His knees when informed of her crime. He knelt and began writing in the sand with His finger. Her accusers fussed and fumed right on. Even though He was attempting to settle their dispute, and though He was giving them His verdict, couched in letters of sand, they were so enraged they did not notice His actions. At length, when they continued with their heated disputations, "Jesus lifted Himself, and said unto them, He that is **WITHOUT SIN** among you, let HIM first cast a stone at her." What a challenge! He could not have stunned them more if He had hurled a fiery thunderbolt at them or struck them across the skulls with a butcher's bludgeon, for they were smitten in their consciences. He is saying, in essence, "Where is the one among you without blemish? Step forth, ye sinless one, and take this matter of punishment into your own hands! Is there an impeccable soul in this throng?" Does it surprise you that **NO ONE** responded to such an appeal? Be not alarmed, for one could make the same proposition to any assemblage of honest persons even in this day, and none would step forth from the ranks. Oh, the time has come for us to be candid with ourselves and with others. It is such a shame that we preach so much about holiness and possess so little of it.

The Bible does not state just what Jesus wrote in the sand, but it has been conjectured that He wrote such things as "Liar," "Traitor," "Blasphemer," "Adulterer," "Thief," until every man's sin on this self-appointed jury had been made known, and, as each found himself guilty of misconduct, he slinked out of the temple and disappeared in the surging masses of the Jerusalem streets. This was too much! The Searcher of hearts had scrutinized the hidden recesses of their souls and poignant conviction had come home to these would-be accusers! Their trouble was that they had come into the presence of the Master, and what happened to them happens to every soul that gets near Him. However much it might be straining for perfection, it is made to feel its unworthiness, and fears it might not be acceptable as it approaches its Maker's presence.

MY SOUL LONGS for the dawning of the day when there will be more honesty in our pulpits. Whether intentionally or not, we seem to throw the mantle of immaculateness around our puny shoulders and appear so impeccable that it is often **DISCOURAGING** to souls struggling toward the standard the Lord has lifted up. When we leave the impression that we are never tempted, and that it is closely akin to sin to be attacked so, little may we realize it, but there are many of our hearers, undergoing severe temptation, who go away from our services and become the prey of Satan. He whispers to them of their weak moments, and of the unrighteous thoughts they have entertained, and insidiously charges, "Ha! Ha! You are not a child of God! You could not be one and be troubled with such tendencies and inclinations to sin! Your preacher says he is above such!" Hear this, ye tormented souls, and comfort one another with these words, "Christ was **TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS**, like as we are, **YET WITHOUT SIN!**" It is not sinful to be tempted! But one would gather from our sermons that we came right straight from heaven, and had never known the taint of transgression. Honestly, some preachers put heaven so high and so inaccessible that they themselves could never reach it. They make God such a

cruel tyrant, seated on a throne of brass, and waiting so anxiously to damn erring souls, that if such were true, no one would really want to serve Him, and then go to live with Him. But, blessed be God, my God is our heavenly FATHER, and, being so, He has the loving characteristics of a father, with such traits as forgiveness, mercy, tenderness, and long-suffering magnified infinitely beyond those of earthly parents. This makes it easy for every prodigal to come home. Why, every sinful woman can go forth from His presence, as did the one in my text, pardoned and sinning no more.

Isaiah called Him a reasonable God, for he depicted the Lord Himself saying, "Come, let us REASON TOGETHER, saith the Lord." So let us be reasonable, too, for a moment, at least. Those of you who are earthly parents, think on this—how long can you continue to be angry with your erring children, when they come and kneel before you, placing their dimpled hands on your knees, with tears sparkling like diamonds in their lovely blue eyes, and earnestly seek your forgiveness for their childish misbehavior? When they look up at you, and with trembling lip cry, "Daddy, I love you!" you have to turn your face away from theirs to retain composure. Their supplications would rend the stony heart of an infidel. Forgiveness is spontaneous, though you had sworn you would punish them. Why? Because you love them! But our God's capacity to understand, forgive, and forget is immeasurably greater than ours. Then, how long do you think He can continue in His fury when we contritely and sincerely repent of our wanderings? Oh, I adore Him for the graciousness and loving kindness He has for sinners! Rejoice then, ye sinners, and be exceeding glad, for He Who rules the universe, and He Who holds the destiny of every soul in His unerring hands will hear your cry for help and will hasten to your rescue.

Some may be despairing because of the heinousness of their transgressions. Be comforted with this: Isaiah continued with "though your sins be as SCARLET, they shall be as white as snow; though they be RED LIKE CRIMSON, they shall be as wool." The harlot Rahab was saved by obedience in holding out the SCARLET THREAD in her window. There is a SCARLET THREAD running throughout the precious Word of God. She, along with all the others who were saved in the Old Testament dispensations, looked forward to a bloody tree, on which would hang a Lamb without blemish, for down His sinless body was to pour a SCARLET STREAM FOR SCARLET SINNERS! That blessed event transpired just outside the gates of Jerusalem on a rugged knoll called Golgotha, and since that time, we sinners, this side of the cross, look back to it and receive eternal redemption and unmerited pardon.

While others reviled, cursed, and accused the adulteress of my text, the Lord loved, defended, and forgave her. He did not regard her as a human wreck on the shores of the sea of life, but rather as a jewel sparkling in the mud. Yes, her surroundings were anything but pretty, but that inner life that had been breathed into her nostrils from the mouth of God was as eternal as God is, and that made her worth more than all the world with its incalculable wealth. Come on home, prodigal, the table is spread, the Father's arms are outstretched, and a heart-warming welcome awaits you. Should you be a backslider, having one time known the joys of salvation, and having been the sheep of His pasture, remember that He, being the Good Shepherd, will leave the ninety and nine that

are safe in the fold and search the bleak mountains of sin until He finds you! His arms are reaching toward you even now. All things are now ready—COME HOME!



WORD PICTURES IN THE ENGLISH DICTIONARY

(Continued from page 3)

However, if our cowardice flows into someone else or our bigotry or hatred flows into someone else, then our influence is bad. We must take care what we cause to flow into others.

Few pastors realize the significance of their title. Even in modern usage the word "pastor" looks and sounds much like the word "pasture." The word is an Old French word stemming from the Latin word *pascere*, which meant "to pasture or feed." Originally, a pastor was one who led a flock to its grazing. He was strictly a shepherd, whose job it was to feed and tend his flock. Notice how the words "congregations" and "pastor" belong together.

The next time you pick up your dictionary and thumb through it, don't think of it as merely a compendium of definitions; read it; study it. Each word is a window or a picture. By looking at it or through it, you can often learn an entrancing and perhaps beautiful story. Each word exists because it is a thread in the fabric of our language. It came into being as a primitive infant, then grew, attained culture, and adapted itself to our modern usage. Words are sermons when we know what they have to say.



THE RENT VEIL

(Continued from page 6)

no longer was the Jewish race to be privileged above the Gentiles in the matters of religion. The way of salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ was opened to whosoever would come and take of the free gift of His love.

THE NECESSITY OF THE VEIL OF SIN BEING REMOVED FROM OUR HEARTS. The veil was considered sacred, but how much more so is the blessed Saviour who died in our place. A new and a living way was opened by Christ, that is to say, His flesh whereby the veil of sin could be torn from our hearts. It was necessary that this veil of ignorance, unbelief, and disobedience be removed. The only way that the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ could enter into our hearts was for the veil of our depraved nature to be rent from top to bottom. Thus, dispelling the darkness and literally driving it from our hearts and lives, the glorious light of His truth was able to flood our souls. What a glorious experience! The veil of our mortal flesh must be rent before we can enter into the holiest of all. Sin must be entirely removed. Flesh and blood cannot enter that immaculate place. We know that by coming to God by Him our sins will be blotted out and our hearts cleansed. Then we will be prepared to live with Him forever.

Now that the way into the holiest of holies has been opened to all, let us come boldly to the throne of grace with great faith and confidence in the merits of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The law has been vindicated, and the ordinances that were against us have been taken away and nailed to His cross in that He died for our sins and arose for our justification. Now He appears in the presence of God in the most holy place. Herein do we have an anchor for our souls.

Remember
to your
this



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Christ friends Christmas



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True to the Bible. Simple. Reverent. It tells of the Nativity in such a charming way that the young will never forget.

The book has large 8½x11 inch pages; easy to hold. Spiral plastic binding.

A sixteen piece Manger Set in full color with a large 17x11 inch four-color background, with folding floor and roof, about which the Holy Family, Wise Men, Shepherds and animals can be grouped. The stand-up pieces can be used in sand tables, on mantels, in the classrooms, or under the Christmas Tree.

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religious news



PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA SPEAKS AGAINST PROTESTANT MINORITY IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Lieutenant-General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, who seized control of the Colombian Government last year in a military coup, was elected by the Constitutional Assembly last month to a four-year term as president of the Republic. On August 7 he was given the oath of office for the period of 1954-58. In his inaugural address, he denounced his country's Protestant religious minority and repeated accusations long used by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in its "hate Protestantism" campaign.

Official alarm over Protestant growth. "One of the problems that is worrying the government and for which it is looking for an amicable solution," said the President, "is the dissemination of Protestantism."

It is true that a religious problem exists in this South American country. The problem springs from a reactionary, intolerant, Roman Catholic hierarchy which is oriented toward the Middle Ages and which refuses to come to terms with the liberal, democratic trend in Colombia or with the modern conception of religious freedom. Fearful that a tiny religious minority may someday challenge its privileged position, the hierarchy has launched an all-out effort to crush Protestant Christianity. It wages its campaign with violence, slander, and misrepresentation, and since 1948 it has used the national police as its instrument of persecution. One of the hierarchy's tactics has been to misrepresent Protestant Christianity in Colombia as an exotic movement unsuited to the Latin temperament.

However, the growing interest in the gospel as presented by Protestants is not merely the result of efforts of foreigners resident in Colombia—a "problem" to be adjusted by the government's Foreign Office. Leadership of the Protestant constituency of about 100,000 is in the hands of Colombians. Each Protestant church member is a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and feels himself obligated to make that gospel known and to make disciples of all men. The "dissemination of Protestantism," so offensive to Colombia's proclerical government, is nothing more than the missionary labor of Protestant Christians. These Christians would be unfaithful to their Lord and Master if they were to suspend that activity. Will a government which boasts of being Christian forbid the carrying out of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ?

Freedom of worship? "Of course," said the President, "in Colombia there is freedom of worship, guaranteed by the constitution and respected by the government in such a manner that among us one may be born, may live, be educated, and die according to the rites of the religion which he professes whatever it may be." The President did not state that one may worship according to the rites of the religion he may profess. The omission is significant. Protestant worship in Colombia is severely restricted. By government order they are prohibited from making any public manifestation of their religious faith. In parts of the nation, they are compelled by the civil authorities to meet behind closed doors, and in some places they are forbidden to meet for any religious service. In some towns they are harassed by police and municipal officials. Reconstruction of Protestant churches (forty-three of which have been destroyed by fire and dynamite in the last six years) has been prohibited by some municipal authorities, leaving congregations without places of worship.

Freedom of education? The President's assurance that one may be educated according to the rites of the religion which he professes is contradicted by the restrictions imposed upon Protestant education by his government. In three-quarters of the nation, the government prohibits Protestants from having schools for the education of their children (Circular Order No. 310-R of the Minister of the Interior, January 28, 1954). This order would be serious in a nation with adequate educational facilities. It becomes criminal in a country where adult illiteracy is 44 per cent and less than half of the 2,300,000 children between 7 and 14 years of age are in school.

Does national unity depend upon religious unity? "Catholic unity," stated the General, "has unquestionably been the most solid foundation of nationality. To happily maintain religious unity and to avoid the creation of religious conflicts in the country are the tasks of . . . the government."

The fiction that national unity will be destroyed if Protestant Christianity is allowed to flourish has long been advanced by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Actually, Colombian history demonstrates that Catholicism has never produced national unity. In 135 years of independence the nation has been torn by ten revolutions involving most of the national territory and some seventy uprisings confined to more limited areas (not including the armed revolts of 1948-53). National

unity does not come by politically compelled profession of the established religion but only by a respect for individual differences and the free advance of the community toward truth.

The charge of communism. "As one can see," continued the President, "not only from the history of the Reformation but also from daily experience, the dissemination of Protestantism in Latin American countries leads not so much to the increase in sincere and respectable Protestants as to the loss of all religious faith and to the inevitable adherence to Communism of those who have been exposed to teachings fundamentally contrary to the essential dogmas of Catholicism."

This astounding accusation has been lifted almost verbatim from the Catholic press. Through sermons and radio addresses, tracts and diocesan papers, the hierarchy was worked to establish in the minds of Colombians an identity between Communism and Protestantism. Among those who accept the hierarchy's teaching, the very word *Protestante* has become an expression of opprobrium. Usually it is linked with two others to form the trinity of evil: Protestants, Communists, Masons.

In thus identifying Communism and Protestantism, the Catholic clergy has been responsible for anti-Protestant violence. The national police and illiterate Colombians have often attacked Protestants under the belief that they were helping rid their fatherland of Communists.

The President's unjust accusation may well lead to a resurgence of violence. The Republic sent soldiers to Korea to fight Communists. Will fanatical Colombians hesitate to attack Protestants now that they have been officially identified with Communism?

On the other hand, most Colombians realize that the strongest opposition to Communism comes from the Protestant nations. The President has overlooked the lesson from history which teaches that Communism has made its heaviest inroads in those Western nations where a "religious totalitarianism" conditioned people for a political totalitarianism.

A striking parallel exists between the present Church-State union in Colombia and that of pre-Soviet Russia. Under the czars, Russia was a desert of politically compelled religion where religious truth was made by law a monopoly of the State Church. At the end of the last century, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and other non-Russian religions were lawful only for subjects of non-Russian nationality. Antonius, the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, in

a manifesto issued in 1908 stated: "Enemies of the Orthodox Church are all those who profess any other religion, who deny that the Orthodox Church is the only true source of the grace of Christ." Violent persecution was suffered by minority religious groups. Proselytism by "heretics" was severely prohibited.

The history of Communist infiltration contradicts the President's accusation. In no Protestant country has Communism been able to gain a foothold. It has not advanced in Protestant Finland or in Protestant Sweden or in Protestant Denmark or in Protestant Holland or in Protestant Great Britain, Protestant Australia, Protestant New Zealand, and Protestant United States are in no danger of accepting Communism.

On the other hand, Italy, the home of Roman Catholicism, has Communist Party membership of over 2,000,000—by far the largest outside the Soviet bloc. In the general elections of 1953 the Communists ran second with over 6,000,000 votes. Catholic Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary are in the Moscow orbit. France has been seriously infiltrated, and Catholic Spain is free of Communism only at the cost of a savage civil war and a Fascist dictatorship.

Protestant countries are characterized by the presence of free men in a free society—men who discover the truth and proclaim it, and who in cooperation with their neighbors try to apply this truth to the common good. From the time of the Reformation, Protestantism has been preparing and teaching people to resist tyranny. Protestantism has fought against every form of tyranny whether it be political economic, or religious. Protestantism does not declare "holy wars" and Crusades. It creates an invulnerable society. At the present time it is well aware of the threat which Communism signifies for democracy and Christianity.

Colombian Protestants regret that their President has adopted the Catholic hierarchy's misrepresentation of Protestant Christianity as the government's official attitude. Rojas Pinilla has damaged hemispheric solidarity which depends upon sympathetic understanding and religious tolerance. He has irritated Good Neighbor relations with Protestant United States. He has shown a strange disregard for the good will which Protestant North Americans have for Colombia and which they exhibit in many ways, including scholarships for hundreds of young Colombians provided by their government, universities, and philanthropic foundations, as well as economic, technical, and military aid.

DROP IN TOBACCO SALES

SAN FRANCISCO (EP) A tobacco industry chieftain, avoiding comment on the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, says sales of all types of tobacco are down about two and one-half per cent from 1953. Joseph Kolodny, managing director of the National Association of Tobacco Distributors, said the sales drop is due to the nation's business decline.

LAUNCH PROGRAM TO PUT BIBLES INTO NEGRO HOMES

CHICAGO (EP) A novel plan never before tried in the state history of Mississippi or, in fact, the entire southland was announced recently by Dr. Wm. A. Keel, Executive Secretary of the Negro work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The plan is the result of the vision which Mr. Keel has pursued during the last two years. The plan will ultimately result in the placement of 100,000 Bibles in the Bibleless homes of Negro residents in Mississippi.

On September 3, Mr. George Slager, member of the World Home Bible League Board, met with Southern Baptist Convention officials to complete plans. The actual distribution will take place by interracial teams who will not only place a Bible in Bibleless homes, but will also follow up the placements so that it can effectively harness the information obtained for possible Sunday School pupils and church membership.

The Southern Baptist Church, through its Woman's Missionary Union, expects to finance this work including the cost of the Scriptures through freewill offerings and special contributions from Southern Baptist people.

HEALING SERVICES OPPOSED BY SOUTH AFRICA PRESBYTERIANS

DURBAN, South Africa (EP) The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa adopted a committee report advising the Church to "set her face against all public services of healing." Presenting results of a study made by the "Life and Work Committee," the Rev. R. H. R. Liddell, of Johannesburg, said that some public faith healing missions had gone far in destroying the atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation between the Church and the medical profession. Public services of healing, Mr. Liddell added, are bound to generate great stress and emotion and under such conditions temporary psychological effects may be mistaken for "cures."

In addition, the clergyman said, public healing missions might lead to a serious misunderstanding of the relationship between faith and health. There might be a temptation to turn the Christian faith into a cult of physical healing, he said. Christianity, he continued, is not faith in physical healing nor in a healer but faith in Christ. The Assembly asked presbyteries to set up advisory panels of doctors and ministers to advise clergymen on matters relating to healing and to foster cooperation between the Church and medical profession.

FUNDAMENTALISTS BLAMED FOR INDIA ATTITUDE TO MISSIONS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) American fundamentalist missionaries are partly to blame for agitation now prevailing against all foreign missionaries in India, a Minneapolis clergyman who spent three months in that country reported on his return. Dr. Howard J. Conn, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church here, said Hindus,

who believe there are many ways to God, do not like the "there is only one way," "are you saved?" approach of the fundamentalists. A group in India has fastened on this weapon in their agitation against all missionaries, Dr. Conn said.

The pastor said the movement against missionaries in India is "vocal but not too serious at present." However, he warned that there is a possibility the whole rising tide of nationalism in the Orient may well result in the barring of all missionaries from India in another decade.

WARNS OF AMERICAN CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (EP) The president of the New Jersey Baptist Convention said here Christian churches cannot ignore the fact that nine times as much money is spent for liquor as on education in the United States. Dr. Harold R. Husted, of Plainfield, leader of 250 New Jersey Baptist churches, made the statement in addressing the Convention's annual meeting here. "The present total consumption of liquor in America is 20 gallons per capita," Dr. Husted said. "The goal of the brewers and distillers is 60 gallons per capita. To accomplish this goal, they are spending 250 million dollars a year in advertising."

Dr. Husted also told the delegates that there never has been such a sense of insecurity in the lives of individuals and so much confusion among the councils of nations. "Our hope for human survival rests upon the teachings of Jesus Christ," he stated.

Nearly 3,000,000 copies of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible have been sold since its publication two years ago. Sunday Schools of fifteen United States and Canadian denominations with 13,500,000 members use the R.S.V. Bible exclusively. Five other denominations, with 1,000,000 church school students, use the revision along with the King James Version for parallel study.

The number of American missionaries in India rose from 1,279 to 1,494, an increase of 16.8 per cent, in the five-year period which ended last January 1, according to figures released by the National Christian Council of India.

A total of 7,084 gospel messages were sent afloat in bottles during the past year by the members of the Christian Endeavor Union of Northern Ireland. Replies to the messages have come from behind the Iron Curtain and from Mexico.

You're not the same person you were a year ago! A government scientist has said research with new nuclear aids showed that 98 per cent of the basic material in the human body was replaced yearly.

Youth at the Crossroads . . .

is an inspirational book containing fifty choice editor's messages by Alda B. Harrison, from THE LIGHTED PATHWAYS down through the nineteen years as editor. Do you have a son or a daughter or a friend whom you would like to meet at the crossroads of life and show him which way to go? Try giving him one of these books for Christmas. Young people are writing in and telling of the blessing it has been to them. Some have been saved and some have been called in to service through reading its pages. The letters below will convince you.

Dear Sister Harrison:

For sometime I have meant to write and thank you for the copy of your book YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS which you sent to me. The book reached me when I was attending the Chaplain School in New York City, and I have enjoyed reading it very much. In fact, you will, no doubt, be glad to know that I have used that book more than any other in preparing little spiritual touches for my weekly chapel bulletin. When I need a filler, I can always find some poem, quotation, or spiritual thought from your book which is just the thing I need.

May God's richest blessings be with you always!—Sincerely, Talmadge F. McNabb, Chaplain (First Lieutenant), United States Army.

Dear Sister Harrison:

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Truly this is the sweetest name in all the world.

I wish to try to tell you how much I enjoyed your book entitled YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS although words cannot express the joy that flooded my soul as I read this wonderful book. I have been inspired to seek for the deeper depths of God while reading it even for the second time. It is so wonderful to read that many times I have watered the pages with tears as you told of a loving Saviour who cares and understands when others forget.

Among my treasured possessions is this book, and I highly recommend it to all and wish it could be placed in every home and church library.—James G. Eubanks (a young fireman from Durham, North Carolina).

Dear Sister Harrison:

Your book YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS has been very inspiring and uplifting to me; not only to me, but also to my entire family and many others with whom I have talked. Your messages have been a great blessing and guidance to me all through the years I was rearing my children. I was so happy when you made it possible to get so many of your messages in one volume. We have used it as part of our family devotional period and find it very effective and stirring. Every home library would be enriched by having it and every heart by reading it. May God bless you and keep you.—Sincerely, Mrs. R. O. Symes.